

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01 DRC-01

/149 W

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R 130953Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2215

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0792

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PGOV MZ PO

SUBJ: MOZAMBIQUE REACTION TO PORTUGUESE CABINET CHANGES

REF: (A) LUANDA 586; (B) LISBON 4081

1. REACTION IN MOZAMBIQUE TO PORTUGUESE CABINET CHANGES IS QUITE RESTRAINED, APART FROM USUAL FLOW OF TELEGRAMS OFFERING CONGRATULATIONS AND PLEDGING FEALTY TO NEW OVERSEAS MINISTER FROM VARIOUS STRATA OF LOCAL HIERARCHY INCLUDING GOVERNOR GENERAL, AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. PERHAPS BECAUSE HEADQUARTERS FAR AWAY IN NAMPULA, THERE HAS BEEN NO AUDIBLE OUTCRY FROM MILITARY AT PRECEDENT-SHATTERING APPOINTMENT OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE MINISTER.

2. ON WHOLE, LAURENTINOS SEEM PLEASED AT REBELLO DE SOUZA'S SELECTION AS OVERSEAS MINISTER. HE WAS PROBABLY THE MOST POPULAR OF RECENT GOVERNORS GENERAL IN MOZAMBIQUE, AND WAS REPORTEDLY ESPECIALLY WELL-LIKED BY AFRICANS, TOWARDS WHOM HE AND HIS WIFE MADE SPECIAL EFFORT. HE HAS REPUTATION HERE OF BEING MAN OF ACTION AND RELATIVE LIBERAL, AND HIS APPOINTMENT HAS GIVEN RISE TO HOPES FOR SIGNIFICANT

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POLICY CHANGES LEADING TO INCREASED AUTONOMY FOR OVERSEAS

TERRITORIES. HIS PREDECESSOR WAS WIDELY CRITICISED AS BEING OLD-FASHIONED, AND TOO INFLEXIBLE AFTER NINE YEARS IN OFFICE TO BE ABLE TO ADAPT HIMSELF TO CHANGING CONDITIONS.

3. STRANGELY ENOUGH, SAME GROUP WHO APPLAUD SILVA CUNHA'S DEPARTURE FROM OVERSEAS MINISTRY, WELCOME HIS SELECTION AS DEFENSE MINISTER, ON GROUND THAT CIVILIAN CHIEF WILL OVERCOME THE CONSTANT RIVALRY, BACK-BITING, AND SELF-SEEKING WHICH THEY FEEL HAS CHARACTERIZED THIS MINISTRY DURING LONG CONTROL BY MILITARY OFFICERS. SOME FEEL THAT, ALTHOUGH NO BRILLIANT INTELLECTUAL, SILVA CUNHA IS FORCEFUL, HARDWORKING AND THOROUGHLY LOYAL TO PRIME MINISTER CAETANO, AND WILL ENSURE THAT LATTER'S POLICIES ARE NOT UPSET BY MILITARY PRESSURE FROM THE RIGHT.

4. APPOINTMENT OF CAREER DIPLOMAT PEDRO PINTO AS SECSTATE FOR INFORMATION ALSO FAVORABLY REGARDED AS THERE IS WIDE-SPREAD CONSCIOUSNESS HERE OF INADEQUACIES OF PORTUGUESE PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS, AND IT IS HOPED EXPERIENCED FOREIGN SERVICE SPECIALIST WILL FIND A WAY OF ENHANCING PORTUGAL'S IMAGE ABROAD.

VAN OSS

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## Message Attributes

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